

Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2002

Meeting Time

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Meeting Location

Metering Building, Second Floor Conference Room

SPU Operations Control Center

2700 Airport Way South

Seattle, WA 98104

Members Present: Bruce Bachen (SPU), Steve Foley (WDFW), Paul Seidel (WDFW), Dennis Moore (Muckleshoot Tribe), Sam Wright (WA Trout), Bill McKay (Puget Sound Anglers), Chuck Wischman (Puget Sound Anglers), Frank Urabeck (NW Marine Trade Association), and Tim Romanski (USFWS)

Other Participants: Joan Thomas (WDFW), Chuck Johnson (WDFW), Cyndy Holtz (SPU), Bill Wells (SPU), and Paul Faulds (SPU)

I. Call to order

Bruce called the meeting to order at 9:05AM

Changes in AFC membership

Bruce introduced Chuck Johnson (WDFW) to the committee and informed members that the Parties to the Landsburg Mitigation Agreement have appointed Bill McKay (Puget Sound Anglers) and Chuck Wischman (Puget Sound Anglers), to the AFC.

II. Approval of agenda

Members unanimously approved the revised agenda.

III. Minutes review and approval for December 13, 2001 meeting

Members approved the minutes from our last meeting with few changes requested by Steve.

IV. Landsburg fish passage update

Bill Wells briefed members on the permit review process by United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), King County Department of Development and Environmental Services (KC DDES), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) as well as the contract negotiations with the projects General Contractor the Natt McDougall Company. He stated that contract negotiations must be finalized by February 2002 to give enough time for subcontract bidding and to avoid costly change orders. He explained that KC DDES had approved “in concept” SPU Mitigation Plan. He noted the plan was a mix of adding large woody debris (LWD) to the river, planting native

vegetation (trees, shrubs, and grasses) and road removal. Paul Faulds explained that a majority of the LWD placement was designed for fish refuge in the 1-10 year flood event however some portion of the LWD would be accessible at low flow.

V. Interim mitigation for coho, chinook and steelhead Co-managers steelhead supplementation proposal

Proposal update by co-managers

Bruce asked WDFW to give the members an update on the steelhead supplementation proposal for 2002. Chuck Johnson explained that this year the Issaquah Hatchery would not be available for a steelhead supplementation program. The hatchery would be available next year. He emphasized that WDFW would like to develop a steelhead supplementation program this year and they are considering other hatcheries for the program. Bruce mentioned that he had been told that the USACE had funds to run the pit tag operation at the lock flumes for 2002, 2004 and 2005 and suggested that steelhead smolts should be pit tagged when caught in the sampling trap in the lower river. Paul S. volunteered to look into using pit tags. Frank asked that the proposal from WDFW include an honest and clear appraisal of the potential results of supplementation.

Committee recommendation on proposal

Bruce provided members with a photocopy of text extracted from the final Cedar River Watershed Conservation Plan, p. 4.3-7. The text provides guidelines for emergency supplementation of chinook, coho, or steelhead. Frank stated that the AFC is expecting to have a proposal in two weeks.

VI. Cedar River sockeye hatchery program

Bruce updated the AFC on the hatchery program development and provided members with recent hatchery plans. He asked members to provide guidance with regards to the proposed residential housing at the hatchery. Frank motioned that the AFC support the development of housing for the hatchery staff at Landsburg and Steve seconded the motion. After some discussion of the importance of housing to the successful operation of the hatchery, members voted unanimously in favor of including staff housing units in the design.

Rearing study update

Paul Faulds provided members with an update on the sockeye short-term rearing study. The raceways are nearly ready and we could expect the first reared group to be ponded around February 4, 2002. He added that one of the control group incubators suffered a loss of approximately 80,000 fish, but that a loss that low should not affect the study. There is some uncertainty surrounding the condition of the remaining fish in the incubator.

Sonar feasibility report

Paul Faulds gave a brief presentation of the Sonar Feasibility Report produced by HTI. He described the sonar equipment was placed upstream of the boat ramp on the lower Cedar River. The electronics were housed in WDFW fry trap barge on the south bank.

The study demonstrated that sonar can be used in the Cedar River for enumerating adults migrating up the river and could prove useful in developing a random sampling method for broodstock and otolith collection. This method might be less expensive than inriver carcass collection and less vulnerable to late season conditions. Paul S. pointed out that was a good idea to tie sonar usage to the collection weir and we should put the sonar requirements in the weir protocols.

Genetics proposal

Bruce provided members with a handout on the genetics proposal. The handout identified genetic samples collected from sockeye on the lower, middle, and upper Cedar River. The objective of the study was to identify if there are subpopulations of sockeye in the river based on time or spawning location. There was some concern over whether sufficient samples had been collected to do the study.

VII. Public comment

There were no public comments.

VIII. Downstream habitat program

Cyndy briefed the members on the HCP downstream habitat program. She explained how this program works with the King County Cedar River Legacy Program and described how matching funds from the county would be used in conjunction with HCP downstream habitat funds to acquire land along the river. She brought orthophotos that identified the land prioritized for purchase. Frank stressed the need to purchase land that had fish utilization associated with it. Cyndy noted that the City's priority was to purchase the best habitat, but that restoration opportunities would be considered. Frank motioned for the AFC to endorse the list and ranking of downstream habitat purchases. Tim seconded the motion and the members approved the list and ranking unanimously.

IX. Information and discussion items

Sam asked for a lead-time of two weeks for voting on any steelhead supplementation proposals.

X. Plan next agenda for meeting scheduled for February 21, 2002

Dave Beauchamp presentation on 2001 sockeye studies in Lake Washington would be covered at the next meeting as well as broodstock collection, hatchery program documents, and interim mitigation for coho, chinook, and steelhead.

XI. Adjourn